



**BILLING CODE 4510-26-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

**[Docket No. OSHA-2011-0009]**

**Fire Brigades Standard; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements**

**AGENCY:** Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

**ACTION:** Request for public comments.

**SUMMARY:** OSHA is soliciting public comments concerning its proposal to extend the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) approval of the information collection requirements specified in the Fire Brigades Standard.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted (postmarked, sent, or received) by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:**

*Electronically:* You may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments.

*Facsimile:* If your comments, including attachments, are not longer than 10 pages you may fax them to the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-1648.

*Mail, hand delivery, express mail, messenger, or courier service:* When using these methods, you must submit a copy of your comments and attachments to the OSHA Docket Office, OSHA Docket No. OSHA-2011-0009, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3653, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210. Deliveries (hand, express mail, messenger, and courier service) are accepted during the Department of Labor's and Docket Office's normal business hours, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., ET.

*Instructions:* All submissions must include the agency name and the OSHA docket number (OSHA-2011-0009) for the Information Collection Request (ICR). All comments, including any personal information you provide, are placed in the public docket without change, and may be made available online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For further information on submitting comments, see the "Public Participation" heading in the section of this notice titled "SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION."

*Docket:* To read or download comments or other materials in the docket, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or the OSHA Docket Office at the address above. All documents in the docket (including this *Federal Register* notice) are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from the website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. You may also contact Theda Kenney at the address below to obtain a copy of the ICR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Theda Kenney, 202-693-2044, Kenney.Theda@dol.gov; Todd Owen, 202-693-1941, Owen.Todd@dol.gov.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. Background**

The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent (i.e., employer) burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing information collection requirements in accord with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program ensures that information is in the desired format, reporting burden (time and costs) is minimal, collection instruments are clearly understood, and OSHA's estimate of the information collection burden is accurate. The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (the OSH Act) (29 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*) authorizes information collection by employers as necessary or appropriate for enforcement of the OSH Act or for developing information regarding the causes and prevention of occupational injuries, illnesses, and accidents (29 U.S.C. 657). The OSH Act also requires OSHA to obtain such information with minimum burden upon employers, especially those operating small businesses, and to reduce to the maximum extent feasible unnecessary duplication of efforts in obtaining information (29 U.S.C. 657).

OSHA does not mandate that employers establish fire brigades; however, if they do so, they must comply with the provisions of the Fire Brigades Standard. The

provisions of the standard, including the paperwork requirements, apply to fire brigades, industrial fire departments, and private or contract fire departments, but not to airport crash rescue units or forest firefighting operations. Paragraphs (b)(1), (b)(2), and (c)(4) contain the paperwork requirements of the standard.

Under paragraph (b)(1) of the standard, employers must develop and maintain an organizational statement that establishes the: existence of a fire brigade; the basic organizational structure of the brigade; type, amount, and frequency of training provided to brigade members; expected number of members in the brigade; and functions that the brigade is to perform. This paragraph also specifies that the organizational statement must be available for review by workers, their designated representatives, and OSHA compliance officers. The organizational statement describes the functions performed by the brigade members and, thereby, determines the level of training and type of personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for these members to perform their assigned functions safely. Making the statement available to workers, their designated representatives, and OSHA compliance officers ensures that the elements of the statement are consistent with the functions performed by the brigade members and the occupational hazards they experience, and that employers are providing training and PPE appropriate to these functions and hazards.

To permit a worker with known heart disease, epilepsy, or emphysema to participate in fire brigade emergency activities, paragraph (b)(2) of the standard requires employers to obtain a physician's certificate of the worker's fitness. This provision provides employers with a direct and efficient means of ascertaining whether or not they

can safely expose workers with these medical conditions to the hazards of firefighting operations.

Paragraph (c)(4) of the standard requires employers to inform fire brigade members of special hazards, such as the storage and use of flammable liquids and gases, toxic chemicals, radioactive sources, water-reactive substances that may be present during fires and other emergencies, and any changes in these special hazards. It also requires that employers develop written procedures describing the actions that brigade members are to take when special hazards are present, and to make these procedures available in the education and training program and for review by brigade members.

## **II. Special Issues for Comment**

OSHA has a particular interest in comments on the following issues:

- Whether the proposed information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information is useful;
- The accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden (time and costs) of the information collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- The quality, utility and clarity of the information collected; and
- Ways to minimize the burden on employers who must comply; for example, by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.

### III. Proposed Actions

OSHA is requesting that OMB extend its approval of the information collection requirements contained in the Fire Brigades Standard (29 CFR 1910.156). The agency is requesting an increase in its current burden hours from 2,510 hours to 2,693 hours, a total increase of 183 hours. The adjustment is primarily due to an increase in the estimated number of manufacturing facilities with 100 or more workers. The agency will summarize the comments submitted in response to this notice and will include this summary in the request to OMB.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Title:* Fire Brigades Standards (29 CFR 1910.156).

*OMB Control Number:* 1218-0075.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profits.

*Number of Respondents:* 24,856.

*Total Responses:* 3,729.

*Frequency of Responses:* On occasion.

*Average Time per Response:* Various.

*Total  
Burden Hours:* 2,693.

*Estimated Cost  
(Operation and  
Maintenance):* \$0.

#### **IV. Public Participation — Submission of Comments on this Notice and Internet Access to Comments and Submissions**

You may submit comments in response to this document as follows: (1) electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Federal eRulemaking Portal; (2) by facsimile (fax); or (3) by hard copy. All comments, attachments, and other materials must identify the agency name and the OSHA docket number for the ICR (Docket No. OSHA-2011-0009). You may supplement submissions by uploading documents electronically. If you wish to mail additional materials in reference to an electronic or facsimile submission, you must submit them to the OSHA Docket Office (see the section of this notice titled “ADDRESSES”). The additional materials must clearly identify your electronic comments and your name, date, and the docket number so the agency can attach them to your comments.

Because of security procedures, the use of regular mail may cause a significant delay in the receipt of comments. For information about security procedures concerning the delivery of materials by hand, express delivery, messenger, or courier service, please contact the OSHA Docket Office at (202) 693-2350, (TTY (877) 889-5627).

Comments and submissions are posted without change at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting personal information such as social security numbers and date of birth. Although all submissions are listed in the <http://www.regulations.gov> index, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download from this website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection and copying at the OSHA Docket Office. Information on using the <http://www.regulations.gov> website to submit comments and access the docket is available at the website's "User Tips" link. Contact the OSHA Docket Office for information about materials not available from this website and for assistance in using the Internet to locate docket submissions.

## **V. Authority and Signature**

Loren Sweatt, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, directed the preparation of this notice. The authority for this notice is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3506 *et seq.*) and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 1-2012 (77 FR 3912).

Signed at Washington, DC, on July 31, 2017.

**Loren Sweatt**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.*  
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